

April 2 1946

Mr Leon Ruffin
651 Fayette St.
Portsmouth Va.

Dear Leon:

I just received your letter, and am answering it and at the same time forwarding it to Mr Manley in Florida.

When we sent you contracts for this year, and you returned them without any explanation, not even a note, we decided you did not want to play ball this year. You had said in a previous letter if you did not get the salary you were demanding, you would stay on your job in Portsmouth. Receiving your contracts back unsigned, with no letter enclosed, made us think you had decided not to play ball this year. As a result we have several rookie catchers in camp which means additional expence for the club, plus a lot of additional headaches.

I am sending your letter to Mr Manley and I am sure he will get in touch with you directly, or tell me what to write you. You should hear from us before the week is out.

The team really looks beautiful on paper, with Pearson, Doby, Watkins, and Isreal in the infield, Harvey, Irvin, Davis and Wilkes in the outfield, Parks and Mackey catching. We do not expect much work from Mackey, and the pitching staff with Day and Manning back looks very good. All we need now is the proper team spirit and some good weather. You can look to hear from us in a few days, or you can write Mr Manley to 708 1/2 Davis St. Jacksonville Florida Bellview Hotel.

Very Truly Yours